

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

FEBRUARY 10, 2004

State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) reimbursement of state and local costs of incarcerating undocumented criminal aliens is critically important to California and its counties, including the County of Los Angeles. Far more undocumented criminal aliens are incarcerated in state prisons and county jails in California than in the entire Federal prison system. California alone accounts for about 40 percent of all state and local costs of incarcerating undocumented criminal aliens, nationally.

Without adequate SCAAP reimbursement, the state and its counties must finance a greater share of criminal alien costs at a time when they are facing huge budget shortfalls. Of major concern, SCAAP currently is funded at a far lower level than in prior years when California's finances were in better shape, and the President is proposing to eliminate SCAAP in Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2005.

In 1998 through 2002, annual SCAAP appropriations averaged \$577 million. SCAAP, however, was cut to only \$250 million in 2003 and is funded at \$297 million in 2004. When SCAAP funding was cut to \$250 million in FFY 2003, the County's SCAAP reimbursement fell from \$34 million in the prior year to less than \$11.5 million. This SCAAP funding loss directly endangers the public's safety as it means that the County's Sheriff has fewer resources for police protection, homeland security, and the incarceration of criminals.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Chief Administrative Officer to prepare a five-signature letter to President Bush, Vice President Cheney, Director Joshua B. Bolten, Attorney General Ashcroft and California's Congressional Delegation in support of full reimbursement from the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program.

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MDA:aplmc
SCAAP Funding

MOTION

MOLINA _____

BURKE _____

YAROSLAVSKY _____

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KNABE _____